

We Claim:

1. A spark plug comprising:  
an insulator;  
a marking layer formed on a surface of the insulator;  
5 and  
a glaze layer covering the marking layer so that  
the marking layer can be seen through the glaze layer,  
wherein the glaze layer comprises 5 mol% or less  
of a Pb component in terms of  $PbO$ , and the tint of the  
10 marking layer seen through the glaze layer is 3 or less  
in the brightness specified by JIS: C6721 as well as 3  
or less in the chroma specified by JIS: C6721, or 4 or  
less in the brightness specified by JIS: J6721 as well  
as 2 or less in the chroma specified by JIS: J6721.
- 15 2. The spark plug as set forth in claim 1, wherein  
the glaze layer further comprises a Zn component.
3. The spark plug as set forth in claim 1, wherein  
20 the glaze layer comprises 1 to 25 mol% of the Zn component  
in terms of  $ZnO$ .
4. The spark plug as set forth in claim 1, wherein  
the marking layer further comprises at least one of the  
25 following elements: Cu, Ni, Co, Mn, Fe, Ti, and Sn.

5. The spark plug as set forth in claim 4, wherein the marking layer comprises at least one of Fe and Mn, and at least one of Cr and Co as metal components.

5 6. The spark plug as set forth in claim 5, wherein the marking layer comprises Fe and Cr as metal components.

7. The spark plug as set forth in claim 6, wherein the marking layer comprises 30 to 60 mass% of the Fe component in terms of  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ , and 10 to 40 mass% of the Cr component in terms of  $\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_3$ .

8. The spark plug as set forth in claim 7, wherein the marking layer comprises 10 to 25 mass% of the Cr component in terms of  $\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_3$ .

9. The spark plug as set forth in claim 4, wherein the marking layer comprises 10 to 40 mass% of a Co component in terms of  $\text{Co}_2\text{O}_3$ .

10. The spark plug as set forth in claim 1, wherein the marking layer further comprises 0.1 to 15 mass% of a Ti component in terms of  $\text{TiO}_2$ .

11. The spark plug as set forth in claim 1, wherein the marking layer further comprises 0.1 to 15 mass% of a Zr component in terms of  $\text{ZrO}_2$ .

the marking layer comprises 0.5 to 15 mass% in total of at least one of an Al component and a Ba component, the Al component being in terms of  $Al_2O_3$  and the Ba component being in terms of  $BaO$ .

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12. A spark plug having:

an insulator;

a marking layer formed on a surface of the insulator;

and

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a glaze layer covering the marking layer so that the marking layer can be seen through the glaze layer,

wherein the glaze layer comprises 5 mol% or less of a Pb component in terms of  $PbO$  and 1 to 20 mol% of a Zn component in terms of  $ZnO$ , and the marking layer

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comprises 30 to 60 mass% of an Fe component in terms of  $Fe_2O_3$ , and 10 to 40 mass% of a Cr component in terms of  $Cr_2O_3$ .

13. The spark plug as set forth in claim 12, wherein  
20 the marking layer comprises 10 to 20 mass% of the Cr component in terms of  $Cr_2O_3$ .

14. The spark plug as set forth in claim 12, wherein  
the marking layer comprises 10 to 20 mass% of the Al component in terms of  $Al_2O_3$ .  
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15. The spark plug as set forth in claim 13, wherein the marking layer further comprises 0.5 to 15 mass% of a Ni component in terms of  $\text{NiO}$ .

- 6 16. The spark plug as set forth in claim 12, wherein the marking layer comprises 0.5 to 15 mass% in total of at least one of an Al component and a Fe component, the Al component being in terms of  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  and the Fe component being in terms of  $\text{FeO}$ .